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continued examination pursuant to §1.114. Applicants include with this response also a petition for a three-month extension of time under 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a) and authorize the office to charge the same deposit account the fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(a) for a three-month extension of time.

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Please amend claim 13 as follows:

13. (5X amended) An indwelling catheter comprising:
an elongate body having a proximal end, a distal end, a tissue-contacting surface, and at least one interior lumen therethrough; and
an external fitting coupled to the proximal end;
wherein the tissue-contacting surface of the elongate body comprises a polymer in which a steroid anti-inflammatory agent is intimately mixed with said polymer such that a non-porous polymer release system is formed with said agent [in a concentration means] for modulating degradation or tissue encapsulation of said catheter.

Please amend claim 27 as follows:

27. (5X amended) A method of modulating tissue encapsulation of an indwelling catheter comprising implanting the indwelling catheter into a patient, wherein the indwelling catheter comprises:
an elongate body having a proximal end, a distal end, a tissue-contacting surface, and at least one interior lumen therethrough; and
an external fitting coupled to the proximal end;
wherein the tissue-contacting surface of the elongate body comprises an overcoating of a polymer in which an effective amount of steroid anti-inflammatory agent is intimately mixed in the polymer such that a non-porous polymer release system is formed with said agent [means] for modulating tissue encapsulation of said indwelling catheter.

Please amend claim 29 as follows:

29. (5X amended) A method of modulating degradation of an indwelling catheter comprising implanting the indwelling catheter into a patient, wherein the indwelling catheter comprises:

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an elongate body having a proximal end, a distal end, a tissue-contacting surface, and at least one interior lumen therethrough; and
an external fitting coupled to the proximal end;
wherein the tissue-contacting surface of the elongate body comprises a polymer intimately mixed with an effective amount of steroid anti-inflammatory agent such that a non-porous polymer release system is formed with said agent [means] for modulating degradation of said indwelling catheter.

Please amend claim 33 as follows:

33. (5X amended) A method of making an indwelling catheter comprising:
providing an elongate body having a proximal end, a distal end, a tissue-contacting surface, and at least one interior lumen therethrough; wherein the tissue-contacting surface comprises an overcoat of a polymer intimately mixed with an effective amount of steroid anti-inflammatory agent such that a non-porous polymer release system is formed with said agent [means] for modulating degradation or tissue encapsulation of said indwelling catheter; and
coupling an external fitting to the proximal end of the elongate body.

REMARKS

Claims 13, 27, 29, and 33 have been amended. Claims 13-19, 24, 27, 29, 33, 34, 36-39, 41, 43, and 44 are pending.

Examination and reconsideration of the application as amended is requested pursuant to 37 CFR §1.114.

Support for the amended claims 13, 27, 29, and 33 can be found in the specification, for example, page 7, lines 17-19; page 12, lines 14-16; and page 12, lines 18-23.

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AMENDED CLAIMS
Rewritten in Clean Form
(37 CFR 1.121(c)(1)(i))

Claims 1-12 (cancelled)

Claim 13. (5X amended) An indwelling catheter comprising:
an elongate body having a proximal end, a distal end, a tissue-contacting surface, and at least one interior lumen therethrough; and
an external fitting coupled to the proximal end;
wherein the tissue-contacting surface of the elongate body comprises a polymer in which a steroid anti-inflammatory agent is intimately mixed with said polymer such that a non-porous polymer release system is formed with said agent [in a concentration means] for modulating degradation or tissue encapsulation of said catheter.

Claim 14. The indwelling catheter of claim 13 further comprising one or more helical coils formed in the elongate body between the proximal and distal ends.

Claim 15. The indwelling catheter of claim 13 wherein the polymer is selected from the group of polyurethanes, silicones, polyamides, polyimides, polycarbonates, polyethers, polyesters, polyvinyl aromatics, polytetrafluoroethylenes, polyolefins, acrylic polymers or copolymers, vinyl halid polymers or copolymers, polyvinyl ethers, polyvinyl esters, polyvinyl ketones, polyvinylidine halides, polyacrylonitriles, copolymers of vinyl monomers with each other and olefins, and combinations thereof.

Claim 16. The indwelling catheter of claim 15 wherein the polymer is selected from the group of polyurethanes, silicones, or combination thereof.

Claim 17. The indwelling catheter of claim 13 wherein the anti-inflammatory agent is a glucocorticosteroid.

Claim 18. The indwelling catheter of claim 17 wherein the glucocorticosteroid is selected from the group of cortisol, cortisone, fludrocortisone, Prednisone, Prednisolone, 6 α -methylprednisolone, triamcinolone, betamethasone, dexamethasone, beclomethasone, aclomethasone, amcinonide, clobetasol,

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clocortolone, derivatives thereof, and salts thereof.

Claim 19. The indwelling catheter of claim 18 wherein the glucocorticosteroid is dexamethasone, a derivative thereof, or a salt thereof.

Claims 20-23 cancelled.

Claim 24. The indwelling catheter of claim 13 wherein the tissue-contacting surface further includes heparin.

Claims 25-26 cancelled.

Claim 27. (4X amended) A method of modulating tissue encapsulation of an indwelling catheter comprising implanting the indwelling catheter into a patient, wherein the indwelling catheter comprises:

an elongate body having a proximal end, a distal end, a tissue-contacting surface, and at least one interior lumen therethrough; and

an external fitting coupled to the proximal end;
wherein the tissue-contacting surface of the elongate body comprises an overcoating of a polymer in which an effective amount of steroid anti-inflammatory agent is intimately mixed in the polymer such that a non-porous polymer release system is formed with said agent [means] for modulating tissue encapsulation of said indwelling catheter.

Claim 28 cancelled.

Claim 29. (4X amended) A method of modulating degradation of an indwelling catheter comprising implanting the indwelling catheter into a patient, wherein the indwelling catheter comprises:

an elongate body having a proximal end, a distal end, a tissue-contacting surface, and at least one interior lumen therethrough; and

an external fitting coupled to the proximal end;
wherein the tissue-contacting surface of the elongate body comprises a polymer intimately mixed with an effective amount of steroid anti-inflammatory agent such that a non-porous polymer release system is formed with said agent [means] for modulating degradation of said indwelling catheter.

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Claim 30-32 cancelled.

Claim 33. (5X amended) A method of making an indwelling catheter comprising:

providing an elongate body having a proximal end, a distal end, a tissue-contacting surface, and at least one interior lumen therethrough; wherein the tissue-contacting surface comprises an overcoat of a polymer intimately mixed with an effective amount of steroidal anti-inflammatory agent such that a non-porous polymer release system is formed with said agent [means] for modulating degradation or tissue encapsulation of said indwelling catheter; and

coupling an external fitting to the proximal end of the elongate body.

Claim 34. The method of claim 33 wherein the step of providing an elongate body comprises intimately mixing the steroidal anti-inflammatory agent with the polymer in a solvent and applying the mixture to the elongate body to form a tissue-contacting surface.

Claim 35 cancelled.

Claim 36. The catheter of claim 13, wherein the polymer is a non-porous polymer.

Claim 37. The catheter of claim 13, wherein the steroidal anti-inflammatory agent is between .1% and 1% of the total solid combined weight of the polymer and the steroidal anti-inflammatory agent.

Claim 38. The catheter of claim 37, wherein the steroidal anti-inflammatory agent is selected from the group consisting of dexamethasone and beclomethasone.

Claim 39. The catheter of claim 13, wherein the steroidal anti-inflammatory agent is impregnated into the polymer of the tissue-contacting surface.

Claim 40 cancelled.

Claim 41. The method of claim 29, wherein the steroidal anti-inflammatory

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agent is impregnated into the polymer of the tissue-contacting surface.

Claim 42 cancelled.

Claim 43. The method of claim 29, wherein the steroid anti-inflammatory agent is between .1% and 1% of the total solid combined weight of the polymer and the steroid anti-inflammatory agent.

Claim 44. The method of claim 43, wherein the steroid anti-inflammatory agent is selected from the group consisting of dexamethasone and beclomethasone.